

# Embroidered Christmas Hand Towels

by Lynda Wyszynski



*Transform ready-made linen guest towels into festive accents for the holidays by embroidering them with tree and wreath motifs. To make these pretty towels you'll use only three simple stitches and a scattering of red seed beads.*



## \* Materials

- 2 white linen hand towels with hemstitched borders
- 6-strand embroidery floss (DMC) in the following colors:

Christmas Red Medium No. 304

Christmas Green Light No. 701

Kelly Green No. 702

- Frosted red seed beads (Mill Hill No. 62013)
- Silver marking pencil (Dritz)
- Ruler
- Tracing paper
- ¼"-wide quilter's tape (Wrights)
- Embroidery and beading needles
- White and red sewing thread
- Black fine-line waterproof pen
- Light box or sunlit window

3. Position the towel, pattern side down, over a light box or sunlit window. First making sure that it's sharpened, use the silver marking pencil to trace the designs onto the towels as follows: Trace the main lines of the branches, tree trunk, and tree holder, but don't trace the individual pine needles or berries because those lines could show through the embroidery. You'll stitch the pine needles and berries on randomly after the other stitching is complete. When tracing the tree branches, use a ruler to help keep the lines straight.

## \* Designer's Tips

- Rinse the colored thread before you begin stitching so that the colors will not bleed when you wash the towel. Hold the thread under cold water until the water runs clear. Gently blot the thread on a paper towel. If the color bleeds onto the paper towel, repeat the process. Allow the thread to dry completely before stitching.
- Use the embroidery needle to work the embroidery stitches and the beading needle to attach the beads.
- Use two strands of floss for the embroidery stitches. Depending on the thread count of the linen, the floss may show through from the back. If the thread does show through, you'll need to begin and end your stitching where the design lines begin and end.
- To begin, make a very small knot at the end of the floss. To end, run your floss ends under previously placed stitches and trim thread tails as necessary.

## Transferring Patterns

1. Using the embroidery patterns at the end of these instructions, trace the tree and wreath onto tracing paper, using a black pen.
2. Place each pattern face up on the back of a hand towel. Center each design across the width of the towel, about 1" above the hemstitched border. Tape the patterns in place with quilter's tape.



## Stitching Instructions (Wreath)

For embroidery stitches, refer to the stitching diagrams at the end of these pattern instructions. Bring your needle up from the back of the fabric at A, down at B, and up at C; then continue in this manner until the stitching is complete.

1. Using the red floss, stitch the bow on the wreath, using a satin stitch. Work the center of the bow so that the stitches run horizontally. Work the satin stitches parallel to each other, being sure the threads completely cover the white area within the design lines and lie smoothly. Work the loops of the bow with the stitches placed at a slight angle. Compensate around the outer curves by filling in the gaps with one or more short stitches as shown in the compensating satin stitch diagram at the end of these pattern instructions.
2. Using the Christmas Green Light floss, stem stitch the main branches of the wreath. Keep the thread on the lower side of the needle while working the stitches.
3. Using the Kelly Green floss, straight stitch the needles onto the branches. Use the embroidery pattern at the end of these instructions as a guide for placement.
4. Use the white sewing thread to randomly stitch the beads to the wreath. Use the embroidery pattern at the end of these instructions as a guide for placement. To be sure the beads are secure, stitch through each bead twice. When traveling from bead to bead, run your thread under the stitches on the back.

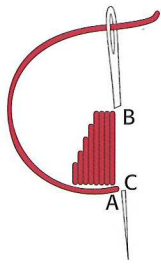


## Stitching Instructions (Tree)

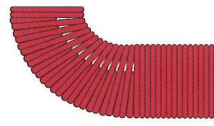
For embroidery stitches, refer to the stitching diagrams at the end of these pattern instructions. Bring your needle up from the back of the fabric at A, down at B, up at C, and continue in this manner until the stitching is complete.

1. Using the Christmas Green Light floss, stem stitch the main branches of the tree. Keep the thread on the lower side of the needle while working the stitches.
2. Using the Kelly Green floss, straight stitch the needles onto the branches. Use the embroidery pattern at the end of these instructions as a guide for placement.
3. Using the Christmas Green Light floss and a satin stitch, fill in the tree holder. Stem stitch a row around the outside of the holder.
4. Use the red sewing thread to attach four beads to the middle of the tree holder as shown in the pattern. To be sure the beads are secure, stitch through each bead twice. When traveling from bead to bead, run your thread under the stitches on the back.
5. Use the white sewing thread to randomly stitch the beads to the tree. Use the embroidery pattern at the end of these instructions as a guide for placement.

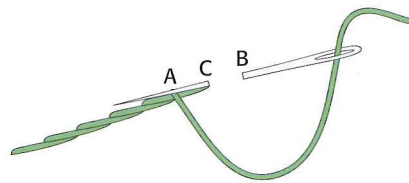




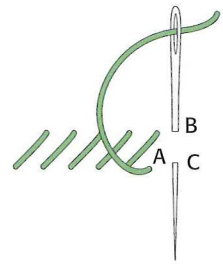
Satin Stitch



Compensating Satin Stitch



Stem Stitch

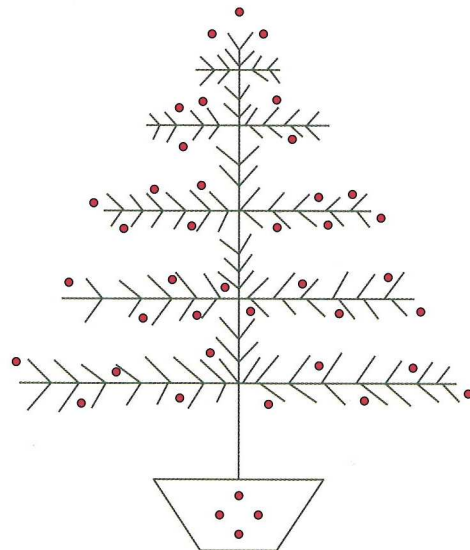


Straight Stitch

### Embroidery Stitches



Wreath



Tree

### Embroidery Patterns

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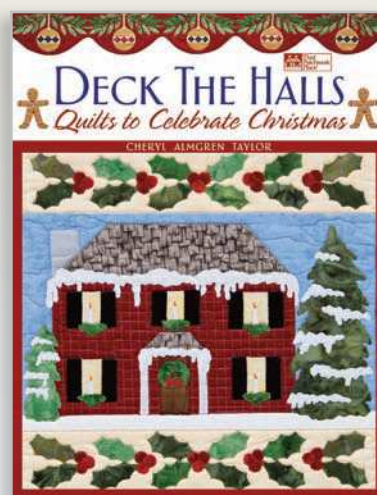
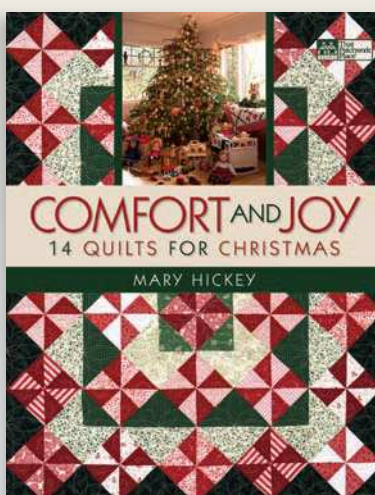
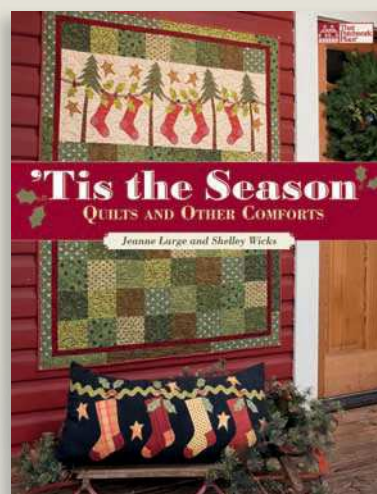
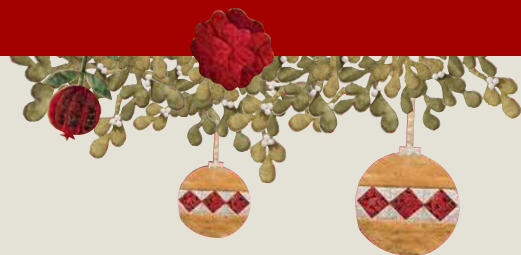
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